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Viewing cable 06ATHENS1652, PAKISTANI EMBASSY CLAIMS GOG COMPLICITY IN HUMAN

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#06ATHENS1652**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
06ATHENS1652	2006-06-28 11:09	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Athens

Appears in these articles:

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VZCZCXRO3030
PP RUEHDBU RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHROV RUEHSR
DE RUEHTH #1652/01 1791109
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 281109Z JUN 06
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5939
INFO RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 0367
RUEHXL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ATHENS 001652

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FOR EUR/SE, SA/PB, INL/HTSC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/21/16
TAGS: [GR](#) [PINR](#) [PINS](#) [PK](#) [SMIG](#) [SOCI](#) [PTER](#)
SUBJECT: PAKISTANI EMBASSY CLAIMS GOG COMPLICITY IN HUMAN
SMUGGLING, SAYS NETWORKS FUND EXTREMISTS BACK HOME

Classified By: AMB. CHARLES P. RIES FOR REASONS. 1.4(B) and (D)

¶1. (C) SUMMARY: In a June 16 meeting with Poloffs, Pakistani XXXXXXXXXXXX relayed his concerns that human smuggling could be funding destabilizing separatist, Muslim-extremist, and even terrorist movements in Pakistan, notably in the Balochistan province. His concern is heightened by what he believes to be complicity by Greek authorities, and at the very least by lack of response by the GoG. For this reason, he hopes for increased pressure on the GoG by USG and the EU.
END SUMMARY.

Context of the meeting

¶2. (SBU) On June 16, Poloffs met with Pakistani Embassy XXXXXXXXXXXX to discuss Pakistani migration to Greece and illegal immigrant detention conditions in Greece (septel). XXXXXXXXXXXX was particul U.S.-Pakistani cooperation on domestic security in Pakistan and in the fight against terrorism. XXXXXXXXXXXX
(Note: There is a population of between 50,000 and 75,000 Pakistanis living in Greece, mostly in Athens. End Note).

Pakistani illegal immigration: possible USG and GoP security concern

¶3. (C) While he said there are almost no reliable statistics on migration to Greece (legal or illegal, Pakistani or otherwise), XXXXXXXXXXXX estimates that approximately 2,000 illegal Pakistani immigrants enter Greece each year, following a route through Iran and Turkey. (Note: with reports in summer months of 200-plus migrants intercepted almost daily in the Aegean and crossing the Evros River, we see this as a conservative estimate. End Note). Although XXXXXXXXXXXX mentioned his concerns about the terrible conditions migrants encounter en route and the burdens of irregular migration on Greece, his greatest concern was the possible connection between the proceeds of Pakistani smuggling and the funding of destabilizing separatist, Muslim-extremist, and even terrorist movements in Pakistan.

¶4. (C) According to XXXXXXXXXXXX, large amounts of "dirty money" involved in the smuggling are routed back to Pakistan through hawala, an informal money transfer system. In the form of hawala described by XXXXXXXXXXXX, someone, usually a trusted friend or family member, physically transports cash from many sources/individuals and redistributes them at the destination, without any documentation or paper trail. He remarked that Pakistan's Balochistan province, bordering Iran, is a primary destination for hawala funds, as it is a large source of smuggling operations and illegal immigrants, as well as a basis for separatist, extremist movements in Pakistan.

Complicity of the Greek government?

¶5. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX claimed that the Pakistani Embassy has

passed names of individuals involved in this form of hawala (and so probably also in smuggling) to the GoG, but has seen no response by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs or Public Order. (Note: Hawala, in and of itself, is not illegal in Greece. Greece does require declarations for import and export above certain amounts of funds, however. At any rate, proceeds resulting from illegal activities are illegal, regardless of amount or how they are transferred. End Note). XXXXXXXXXXXX believes that what he sees as the GoG's lack of palpable concern is the combined result of: 1) lack of resources; 2) corruption; and 3) failure to collaborate generally with the Pakistani Embassy. Of these three, corruption is the most troubling to XXXXXXXXXXXX, who has been told by Pakistani migrants that they crossed into Greece completely undisturbed by Greek border authorities, or were even transported in Greek military vehicles. For this reason, XXXXXXXXXXXX believes that there is complicity in smuggling operations by Greek law enforcement authorities. He appealed to us, saying such complicity on the part of Greek authorities is detrimental to the common fight against terrorism and the EU's attempt to secure its outside borders. In light of the lack of a response from the GoG, XXXXXXXXXXXX expressed a desire for more assistance from the USG and the EU in addressing these concerns. He also indicated that the

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large Pakistani community in Greece and these security threats to Pakistan might be reasons for the GoP to increase the size of its post in Athens in the near future.

16. (C) COMMENT: While reports of corruption or indifference among Greek law enforcement authorities are not rare, they are not typically made as explicitly as here. XXXXXXXXXXXX's contention that money involved in human smuggling is possibly used to fund extremist or even terrorist groups in Pakistan is also a charge we have not heard communicated so emphatically before. We will remain alert to such reports in our contact with Greek law enforcement.

RIES